

Message Text

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51

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 081300Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4610

INFO AMEMBASSY SANAA

USMTM DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

S E C R E T JIDDA 3378

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECDEF FOR ISA

NICOSIA PASS AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, YE

SUBJECT: OPERATION TRIANGLE: NAVY PROGRAM

REF: (1) JIDDA 2750; (2) JIDDA 3362

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED COPY OF DRAFT RECOMMENDATION ON YEMENI NAVY, DEVELOPED THROUGH MODA AND USMTM COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS. BELIEVE DRAFT HAS BEEN OR WILL BE SOON PRESENTED TO MINDEF SULTAN.

2. DRAFT PROPOSES EIGHT-YEAR NAVAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, AT END OF WHICH YEMENI NAVY WOULD BE COMPOSED OF 12 STRIKE AND PATROL UNITS, TWO LOGISTICS SUPPORT CRAFT, OUR PATROL BOATS, PLUS OPERATIONAL BASES, OVERHAUL AND MAINTENANCE FACILITIES, AND A TRAINING CENTER FOR OFFICERS AND ENLISTED PERSONNEL, ESTIMATED COST OF 18 CRAFT WITH TWO YEARS SPARE PARTS IS \$75 MILLION. TOTAL PROGRAM, INCLUDING VARIOUS SHORE FACILITIES, TOTALS \$112,450,000. NOT INCLUDED IN THIS ESTIMATE ARE COSTS FOR HARBOR RENOVATION (DREDGING, PIERS, ETC.) NAVAL

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BASE DEVELOPMENT (ELECTRIC POWER, WATER, HOUSING, OFFICES),

AND POSSIBLE CONTRACTOR SUPPORT FOR THE TRAINING CENTER
AND REPAIR FACILITIES.

3. AFTER REVIEWING THIS PROPOSAL, AND PDRY AND SAG
NAVAL CAPABILITIES, EMBASSY HAS INFORMED USMTM WE BELIEVE
PROPOSAL IS FAR TOO LARGE AND UNREALISTIC FOR YAR,
AND NEEDS TO BE SCALED DOWN DRASTICALLY. (SHOULD BE
NOTED THAT IN ASSISTING WITH DEVELOPMENT OF REPORT USMTM
WAS GIVEN RATHER GENERAL AND UNSPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR
YAR NAVAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.) IN OUR VIEW, BEST
APPROACH TO COUNTERING ANY PDRY NAVAL THREAT (WHICH DOES
NOT APPEAR TO BE OVERLY GREAT AT PRESENT TIME) IS TO
CONCENTRATE ON BUILDING STRONG YAR ARMY, WHICH COULD
COUNTER ANY PDRY FORCES LANDED BY SEA, RATHER THAN BUILD-
ING UP NAVAL FORCES WITH THEIR OWN STRIKING CAPABILITY,
AND THE ABILITY TO INTERDICT A SEABORNE LANDING FORCE.
THUS, WE ARE REQUESTING USMTM TO COUNSEL MODA THAT IN
OUR VIEW YAR NAVAL CAPABILITY SHOULD HAVE THIRD PRIORITY,
AFTER ARMY AND AIR FORCE, AND THAT EVEN THIS THIRD PRIORITY
SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE COSTAL
PATROL ABILITY. WE BELIEVE THAT A GOOD COAST GUARD
IS A MORE REASONABLE OBJECTIVE FOR THE YAR THAN A GOOD
NAVY AT THE PRESENT TIME. USMTM AGREES THAT NEW PRO-
POSAL FOR THIS MORE MODEST OBJECTIVE COULD ALSO BE
DEVELOPED.

4. IF SAG OR PRINCE SULTAN RAISES QUESTION OF YAR NAVY
WITH US, WE WILL, IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS, STRESS WHAT
WE FEEL SHOULD BE THE VERY MODEST OBJECTIVES OF THE
NAVAL PROGRAM, AND SUGGEST THE POSSIBILITY THAT A
CIVILIAN FIRM MIGHT CONDUCT COAST GUARD TRAINNING IN
YEMEN AT SOME FUTURE DATE, SIMILAR TO THE AVCO COAST
GUARD PROGRAM NOW BEING CONDUCTED IN SAUDI ARABIA.
TRAINING COULD START PERHAPS ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE OF
SHIP AVAILABILITY (ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT TWO YEARS FROM
PLACEMENT OF ORDER). IF SAG FEELS IT NEEDS TO DO SOME-
THING SOONER TO DEMONSTRATE ITS CONCERN, WE WOULD
SUGGEST THAT IT ALLOW A SMALL GROUP OF YEMENIS TO ENTER
THE CURRENT AVCO PROGRAM IN SAUDI ARABIA. UNLESS SAG
RAISES SUBJECT, HOWEVER, EMBASSY WILL NOT SEEK DELVE
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MORE DEEPLY INTO IT AT THIS TIME.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: CONCURRENCE OF DEPARTMENT IN
THIS GENERAL APPROACH. (SEPARATE MESSAGE WILL FOLLOW
WITH SUGGESTION RE YEMENI AIR FORCE.)
THACHER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF FOR ISA.

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NNN

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